

# BEYOND THE BELL

District #46 Muskoka — Retired Teachers of Ontario

www.rtomuskoka.org

Volume 4 Issue 1

Winter 2010

## Our Very Own Marg is President

Retired teachers of Muskoka can be so very proud that for the first time, the provincial president of RTO/ERO is from Muskoka. At RTO/ERO Fall Senate Margaret Couture was elected as president. Some of us remember, just a few years ago, when we selected Marg as Political Action committee chair for RTO/ERO Muskoka.



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Marg has spent more than thirty years in education as both a teacher and a principal. Throughout her career, Marg has been active in teacher federations and in leadership roles assisting other teachers .

Despite her busy schedule and travel to all corners of the province, Marg continues to attend District #46 meetings and is always willing to give a helping hand with local activities.

Best wishes for a wonderful presidency, Marg.

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### Local School Reunion

Macaulay Pubic School will be celebrating its 50th Anniversary on Saturday, April 24, 2010, from 2:00 - 4:00 pm.

The Macaulay School Community would like to invite all retired teachers to join them in this celebration.

If anyone has school memorabilia or pictures that they would like to share for this event please contact Ross Jewiss, Principal, Macaulay Public School at 705-645-5410.

If you change your email address please contact Membership Chair,  
Mary Patterson at  
muskokarto@yahoo.com  
to continue to receive your newsletters and notices of all events.

It's hard to believe it's already February! I hope the holiday season was enjoyable for all of our members, and that the groundhog's prediction of six more weeks of winter only comes true for those who like to snowmobile, ski and snowshoe.

Earlier this week, we held our first 2010 meeting of the District 46 executive, with a very full agenda of items to be discussed. Upcoming events include a Retirement Planning Workshop (members are welcome to attend if you'd like a refresher on topics such as the RTO/ERO health plan or pension considerations), the Spring General Meeting, and our annual BBQ to be held in June this year at Walkling's Farm in Raymond. A fall trip to Stratford is planned for late September. Further information about dates and registration is listed on the last page of the newsletter.

In response to the earthquake disaster in Haiti, the RTO/ERO provincial office has made a donation of \$10,000 to the International Development and Relief Foundation (IDRF), which will be matched by the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), totalling \$20,000 for assistance to Haiti for relief of its recent tragedy. RTO/ERO District 46 – Muskoka will also donate \$500.00 to World Vision in support of the people of Haiti at this extremely difficult time.

Thank you to those members who attended the Fall Annual General Meeting on November 5, 2009 at the Turner Centre in Bracebridge. Your input on the Table Discussion Survey was very much appreciated, and some excellent suggestions for future District 46 activities were presented on the response sheets. Support for us to continue holding our meetings at the Turner Centre was strong, and this will be the location for our Spring Meeting as well. Further information regarding travel opportunities for seniors is posted on the District 46 website at [www.rtomuskoka.org/](http://www.rtomuskoka.org/).

RTO/ERO Provincial Executive goals and priorities at this time include:

- To maintain quality service to members
- To raise the profile of RTO/ERO
- To undertake political advocacy related to Harmonized Sales Tax, health care and other issues that may benefit RTO/ERO members and all seniors.
- To strengthen external relationships with other like-minded groups in Ontario
- To ensure effective governance structure
- To ensure financial accountability

Further information about a number of topics of interest to seniors is available through the provincial RTO/ERO website at [www.rto-ero.org/](http://www.rto-ero.org/)

You may recall that our 2009 Project - Service to Others applica-

tion resulted in a \$4000.00 grant from the RTO/ERO provincial office to help support the building of Oleleshwa Primary School in Ewaso Ngiro, Kenya. A number of our members will be travelling to Kenya in the coming months to visit the school site. My husband, Tom, and I are looking forward to travelling with Bob and Shirley Harris, their daughter Venita, and Anne Mundy, for an adventure that will take us through interesting villages and school sites in Kenya and Tanzania, as well as a wildlife safari in the Maasai Mara and Serengeti regions.

Morning Recess Coffee Hours throughout Muskoka will resume in the spring, and a schedule of dates will be posted in the Spring newsletter in April.

All questions or information may be sent to our new email address at [muskokarto@yahoo.ca](mailto:muskokarto@yahoo.ca). Please accept my apology if you received unwanted RTO email before Christmas. Members' email addresses are now maintained by the Webmaster and are not linked to the RTO/ERO District 46 email address.

Please feel free to contact me with your thoughts about how we can work together to develop District 46 into a dynamic organization that appeals to retired educators of all ages throughout Muskoka. I may be reached at [Lorna.Walkling@sympatico.ca](mailto:Lorna.Walkling@sympatico.ca) or at 385-2948. I look forward to hearing from you, or seeing you at one of the upcoming Spring events. Happy Valentine's Day!

Lorna

Past President	Bob Harris	705-687-5478	rsharris@sympatico.ca
President	Lorna Walkling	705-385-2948	lorna.walkling@sympatico.ca
First Vice President	Shirley Harris	705-687-5478	rsharris@sympatico.ca
Second Vice President	Mary Patterson	705-762-5270	marykp99@yahoo.com
Acting Secretary	Shirley Harris	705-687-5478	rsharris@sympatico.ca
Treasurer	Leo Couture	705-762-1144	balacooch@aol.com
Travel & Social	Lee Shea	705-645-8677	mlshea@sympatico.ca
Health Insurance	Rod Mundy	705-789-5777	rodmundy@vianet.ca
Acting Political Action	Marg Couture	705-762-1144	margaretcouture@aol.com
Newsletter	Mary Storey	705-684-9560	mstorey@cogeco.ca
Webmaster	Laurie Fountain	705-645-9754	laurie@muskoka.com
Gravenhurst Goodwill	Norma Carrick	705-687-7572	
Bala & Port Carling Goodwill	Pearl Davidson	705-762-3477	momcpd@muskoka.com
Bracebridge Goodwill	Anne Glazier	705-645-4756	anneglazier@hotmail.com
Huntsville Goodwill	Joyanne Paget	705-787-0500	

## Note from the Editor

It is now mid winter and this may find you curled up with a good book in Muskoka or curled up with a good book on a beach somewhere. No matter where, as retirees we manage to have more time for reading.

Santa Claus dropped some great books off at our home this Christmas.

In our schools, literacy is a huge focus in every subject area and every grade level. We trust this

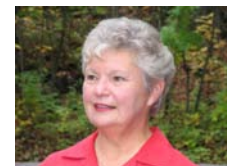
initiative will give our young people the love of reading and make them better citizens who can get better jobs because their reading skills are top notch.

While on the subject of reading, we need to mention the new electronic tablets, called iPad, that Apple Computer has just released. Do you think you would like to read all your books, magazines and newspapers on a screen?

I think I would miss the feel of the

pages, the thrill of turning them and the actual feel of the book. However, it would be great to have current news, magazines and a choice of books in one unit when travelling. Of course, there is a charge for downloading all this information. Must continue my reading.....

*Mary*



## Bursary for Students

### **RTO/ERO Muskoka invites applications for a \$1500 Bursary for students attending post secondary education**

This bursary will be awarded to a Muskoka secondary school student who is in need of financial support  
Deadline for applications is Friday, April 16, 2010

To apply: Students write a letter to: Mary Storey, Chairperson of the RTO Bursary Committee, explaining their need and include a letter of support from a teacher

Send to P.O. Box # 41, Gravenhurst, ON P1P 1T5



# Upcoming Events

## RTO/ERO Muskoka Spring Meeting and Luncheon

Friday, April 30, 2010

Turner Centre

120 Taylor Road, Bracebridge

Cost: \$10.00 per person

9:00 am Registration & Refreshments

9:30 am Meeting

12:00 noon Lunch

RSVP by: April 23, 2010

See below



## Other RTO/ERO Muskoka Events

Retirement Planning Workshop

Wednesday, April 28, 2010

Turner Center, Bracebridge

Summer BBQ

Friday, June 18

Location: Walkling Farm, Raymond

Hell with The Bell Breakfast

Tuesday, September 14

Location: to be announced

Theater Trip—Kiss Me, Kate

Tuesday, September 28,

Stratford with bus travel



More details in  
next newsletter



## RTO/ERO Spring Meeting and Luncheon

Mail reply slip to: Lee Shea, 120 Front Street.

Bracebridge, ON, P1L 1J7.

705-645-8677

Cheques payable to RTO Muskoka

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Phone No. \_\_\_\_\_

Payment Enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_ person(s) @ \$10.00

Please reply by April 23, 2010